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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1.　(Currently amended) A distributed processing method in which a processing task is distributed to a plurality of user terminals <u>in a network</u> and is executed by ~~a plurality of~~ <u>the</u> user terminals, said distributed processing method comprising the steps of:

a server dividing a processing task into a plurality of ~~the~~ processing units and distributing the processing units to said plurality of user ~~terminals;~~ <u>terminals so that:</u>

each of said plurality of user terminals ~~executing the~~ <u>will then be able to execute at least one</u> distributed processing unit received from said server and ~~sending~~ <u>send</u> back a processing result to said server via said network; and

said user terminals ~~receiving~~ <u>will correspondingly receive</u> a specified service as a value for executing said processing units.

2.　(Currently amended) The distributed processing method according to claim 1, wherein said specified service ~~is~~ <u>comprises at least one of:</u>

to provide a license of using a user application ~~or~~ <u>; and</u>

to discount a user fee charged ~~by a~~ <u>for at least one of</u> on-line shopping and a provider connection.

3.　(Currently amended) A distributed processing method in which a processing task is distributed to a plurality of user terminals <u>in a network</u> and executed by ~~a~~ <u>the</u> plurality of user terminals, said distributed processing method comprising the steps of:

~~said~~ <u>a</u> collection/distribution server dividing said processing task into ~~at least~~ one or

more processing units and distributing the units to said user terminals; so that:

each user terminal of said plurality of user terminals receiving ~~the~~ a processing

unit transmitted from said collection/distribution server via the network ~~to execute~~ can

execute the processing unit under control of a license application installed ~~to~~ in the user

terminal; and

each user terminal of said plurality of user terminals ~~sending~~ can then send

back a processing result to said collection/distribution server via the network~~; and~~ ,

wherein said license application ~~providing~~ provides each said user terminal with a

license for using a user application as a value for executing said processing unit.

4.   (Currently amended) A distributed processing method ~~of~~ for a processing task,

comprising:

a user terminal obtaining a user application and a license application from an

application server via a network;

said application server transmitting information of a user who obtained said user

application and said license application to a collection/distribution server;

said collection/distribution server accepting a request for a processing task from a

customer terminal via the network;

said collection/distribution server dividing said processing task into a form which can

be distributed and executed in a plurality of user terminals;

said collection/distribution server requesting said user terminal of executing the

divided processing task based on the user information received from said application server;

said license application executing the divided processing task requested from said

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collection/distribution server by said license application on said user terminal, and sending

back a processing result to said collection/distribution server from said user terminal;

said license application providing the user terminal with a license key for said user

application installed to said user terminal; and

said collection/distribution server integrating the processing results of the processing

task collected from said user terminals to transmit a an integrated result to said customer

terminal.

5.   (Original) The distributed processing method according to claim 4,

wherein said license application runs as a background processing on said user

terminal.

6.   (Original) The distributed processing method according to claim 5, further

comprising:

said application server accounting to said collection/distribution server in accordance

with the a number of the license applications supplied to said user terminal.

7.   (Currently amended) A distributed processing method, comprising:

a user terminal accessing an application server, which is providing a specified service,

via a network to network, to obtain a license application;

said application server registering information of a said user terminal, which is

obtained by said license application, with a user database, and transmitting the information to

a collection/distribution server via said network;

said collection/distribution server accepting a request for a processing task from a customer terminal via the network, and dividing said processing task into a form which can be distributed and executed in a plurality of user terminals;

said collection/distribution server requesting ~~at least~~ one or more said user terminals ~~of executing~~ to execute a divided processing task based on the user information received from said application server;

said license application executing the processing task requested by said collection/distribution server on each of said one or more user terminals;

said license application in each of said one or more user terminals sending back a processing result of said processing task to said collection/distribution server;

said collection/distribution server integrating the processing results of the processing task sent back from said one or more user terminals and transmitting a an integrated result to said customer terminal;

said collection/distribution server calculating and storing points in accordance with a processing amount for the processing task of each of said user terminals; and

said application server providing said user terminal with a service ~~with~~ in accordance to the points stored by said collection/distribution server when the service is requested from said user terminal which executed said processing task.

8.   (Currently amended) A distributed processing system in which a processing task is executed by a plurality of user terminals, comprising:

a collection/distribution server which divides a processing task requested from a customer terminal into a plurality of processing units and distributes said processing units to

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said user terminals via the network; and

~~a application~~ an application server which supplies said user terminals with a user application and a license application in response to a request from said user terminals,

wherein the license application supplied to said user terminal ~~executes~~ allows said processing unit to be executed on said user terminal and ~~sends back~~ a processing result obtained therefrom to be sent back, when said user terminal receives one or more said processing units from said collection/distribution server, ~~and~~ said license application also provides the user terminal with a license key for using said user ~~application,~~ application.

9.   (Original) The distributed processing system according to claim 8, further comprising:

a first user database which connects to said application server and which stores user information of said user terminals, to which said application server supplied the user application and the license application,

wherein said application server notifies said collection/distribution server of the user information when storing the user information into the first database.

10.   (Currently amended) The distributed processing system according to claim 9, further comprising:

a second user database which connects to said collection/distribution server and which stores the user information received by said collection/distribution server from said application server,

wherein said collection/distribution server manages the user terminals which execute a divided processing task based on contents in said second user database.

11.   (Original) The distributed processing system according to claim 10,

wherein the license application supplied to said user terminal requests the processing

unit to said collection/distribution server when the license application runs on said user

terminal.

12.   (Currently amended) A distributed processing system in which a processing task is

executed by a plurality of user terminals, comprising:

a collection/distribution server which divides a processing task requested into a

plurality of processing units, and which distributes the processing units to said plurality of

user terminals, and which calculates points of each of said user terminals in accordance with

a processing amount of the processing units;

a database connected to said collection/distribution server which stores said calculated

points for every user terminal;

an application server which supplies said user terminal with a license application in

response to a request from said user terminal and which provides a service in response to a

request from said user terminal; and

a plurality of the user terminals which each executes the processing unit transmitted

from said collection/distribution server,

wherein the license application supplied to said user terminal executes said processing

unit on said user terminal and sends back a processing result to said collection/distribution

server when said user terminal receives one or more said processing units from said

collection/distribution server, and

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said application server provides said user terminal with a service in accordance with

points stored in said database.

13. (Original) The distributed processing system according to claim 12,

wherein said collection/distribution server integrates and edits all the processing

results transmitted from said user terminals, and transmits the result to the customer terminal.

14. (Currently amended) The distributed processing system according to claim 12,

said service for said user terminal of said application server is- comprises a discount

of a fee in accordance with said points.

15. (Original) The distributed processing system according to claim 12,

wherein said license application runs on said user terminal as a background

processing.

16. (Original) The distributed processing system according to claim 12,

wherein said application server charges said user terminal for an amount, which is

discounted from a service fee for said user terminal by an amount in accordance with said

point, and charges said collection/distribution server for the discounted amount.

17. (Currently amended) A program embodied in electric signals- signal-bearing medium

embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing

apparatus, said program causing a user terminal, being in a distributed processing system

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comprising:

a collection/distribution server;

an application server;

at least one or more user terminals; and

a network mutually connecting the foregoing,

to perform <u>a method of distributed processing, said method comprising</u>:

receiving a license key capable of using a specified user application from said

application server;

executing at least one or more processing units received from said

collection/distribution server on said user terminal;

sending back a result of executing said processing unit to said collection/distribution

server; and

applying said license key to said user application on said user terminal as a value for

executing said processing units.

18.   (Currently amended) A ~~program embodied in electric signals~~ <u>signal-bearing medium</u>

<u>embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing</u>

<u>apparatus</u>, said program causing a collection/distribution server, being in a distributed

processing system comprising:

a collection/distribution server;

an application server;

~~at least~~ one or more user terminals;

<u>at least one customer terminal;</u> and

a network mutually connecting the foregoing,

to perform <u>a method of distributed processing, said method comprising</u>:

receiving user information of ~~the~~ <u>a</u> user terminal registered with said application

server from said application server and registering with a database;

accepting a processing task from a customer terminal and dividing the processing task

into a plurality of processing units;

distributing each of said processing units to a plurality of said user terminals

connected via said network;

receiving processing results, which <u>have been</u> processed by said user terminals, of

said distributed processing units;

integrating said received results, forming a result of said processing task, and sending

back the result <u>to</u> said customer terminal;

calculating a point value in accordance with a processing amount for the processing

unit for each of said user terminals and storing said point value in the database, and

notifying said application server of the stored point value.

19.   (Currently amended) A collection/distribution server which allows a plurality of user

terminals to execute a processing task in a distributed state, <u>said collection/distribution server</u>

comprising means for:

accepting a request for a processing task from a customer terminal;

dividing and storing the processing task accepted into a plurality of processing units;

transmitting said stored processing units to ~~said~~ <u>a</u> user terminal in response to a

transmission request for the processing unit transmitted from said user terminal;

receiving a processing result transmitted from said user terminal;

integrating and editing all the processing results transmitted from <u>all of</u> said <u>plurality</u> <u>of</u> user terminals, forming a processing result for said processing task request, and transmitting the result to said customer terminal; ~~and~~

calculating a point value in accordance with a processing amount of said user terminal, and storing the point value for each of said user terminals; and

sending said stored point value to an application server.

20.   (Currently amended) An application server of a distributed processing system in which a processing task received by a collection/distribution server is divided and executed in a plurality of user terminals, <u>said application server</u> comprising means for:

sending a user application and a license application to a user terminal which requested sending of an application;

registering user information of said user terminal, to which said user application and said license application are sent, with a database, and send<u>ing</u> said user information to said collection/distribution server;

providing a service in accordance with a request for the service from said user terminal;

obtaining a point value for each of said user terminals from said collection/distribution server; and

charging said user terminal for an amount, which is discounted from a service fee for said user by an amount in accordance with said obtained point value for each said user terminals, and charging said collection/distribution server for the discounted ~~amount~~ <u>amount.</u>

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21. (New) A customer terminal, comprising at least one of:

a transmitter to send a processing task request to a collection/distribution server; and

a receiver to receive from said collection/distribution server a processing result for

said processing task request,

wherein said processing task request causes said collection/distribution server:

to divide said requested processing task into a plurality of processing units;

to distribute the processing units to a plurality of user terminals connected to

said collection/distribution server via a network;

to receive processing results from said plurality of user terminals;

to integrate said received processing results and form said processing result of

said processing task to be sent back to said customer terminal; and

to calculate points for each of said user terminals in accordance with a

processing amount of the processing units performed by said each user terminal.